

LAUS-24,408

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 C.F.R. 1.5)

09/125479

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/AU97/00087INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE
18.02.1997PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
19.02.1996

TITLE OF INVENTION UNIVERSAL CONTRACT EXCHANGE

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Lancaster Australia Pty. Limited

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☐ This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. ☐ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
 - a. ☒ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☒ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☐ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)).
 - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☐ A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(35)).

ITEMS 11. to 16. below concern other document(s) or information included:

11. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☐ A FIRST preliminary amendment.
☐ A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A substitute specification.
15. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16. ☒ Other Items or information. Preliminary Amendment.

17. ☐ The following fees are submitted:

Basic National Fee (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)):
 Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO. \$ 910.00

International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) \$ 700.00
 No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but international search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)). ... \$ 770.00

Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO. \$ 1,040.00

International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4). \$ 96.00

CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY

ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT = \$ 1,040.00

Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than ☐ 20 ☒ 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).

\$ 130.00

Claims	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate		
Total Claims	13 - 20 =	0	X \$ 22.00	\$ 0	
Independent Claims	3 - 3 =	0	X \$ 80.00	\$ 0	
Multiple dependent claim(s) (if applicable)			+ \$260.00	\$ 0	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS			=	\$ 1,170.00	
Reduction by 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Verified Small Entity statement must also be filed. (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).				\$	
SUBTOTAL =				\$ 1,170.00	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).			+	\$ 0	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$ 1,170.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(H)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property +				\$	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$ 1,170.00	
				Amount to be refunded	\$
				charged	\$

a. ☒ A check in the amount of \$ 1,170.00 cover the above fees is enclosed.b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees.
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0780/LAUS-24,408. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

GREGORY M. HOWISON
 THOMPSON & HOWISON, L.L.P.
 P.O. Box 741715
 Dallas, Texas 75374-1715

SIGNATURE

Gregory M. Howison
 NAME

30,646
 REGISTRATION NUMBER

09/125479

305 Rec'd PCT/PTO 19 AUG 1998

PATENT

LAUS-24,408

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Roger Lancaster

For: UNIVERSAL CONTRACT EXCHANGE

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the initial review, please amend the claims as follows:

Page 45, line 6, Claim 3, delete "or 2";

Page 45, line 14, Claim 4, delete "any preceding claims", and insert therefor --claim 1--;

Page 45, line 18, Claim 5, delete "any preceding claims", and insert therefor --claim 1--;

Page 46, line 21, Claim 8, delete "or 7";

Page 46, line 31, Claim 9, delete ", 7 or 8";

Page 48, line 4, Claim 12, delete "or 11"; and

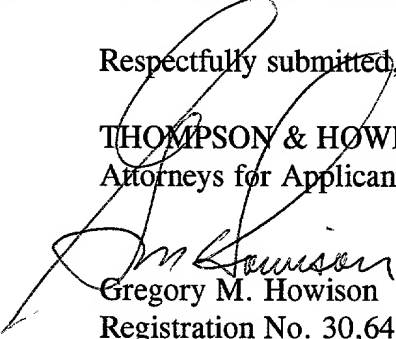
Page 48, line 13, Claim 13, delete ", 11 or 12".

Please charge any additional fees or deficiencies in fees or credit any overpayment to
Deposit Account No. 20-0780/LAUS-24,408 of THOMPSON & HOWISON, L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

THOMPSON & HOWISON, L.L.P.

Attorneys for Applicant


Gregory M. Howison

Registration No. 30,646

GMH/co

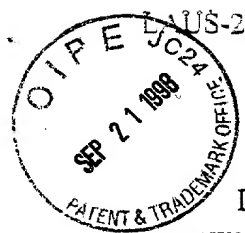
P.O. Box 741715

Dallas, Texas 75374-1715

972/479-0460

August 19, 1998

669090 "64492760



US-24,408

PATENT

STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS --
SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN

I hereby declare that I am an official of the small business concern identified below and am empowered to act on behalf of the concern:

Lancaster Australia Pty Limited
356 Moore Park Road
Paddington
New South Wales, 2021, Australia

I hereby declare that the above-identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.9 (d), for purposes of paying reduced fees, in that (1) the number of employees of the concern including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons, and (2) the concern has not assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed, and is under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the below-identified invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor if the person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern or as a nonprofit organization. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that exclusive rights to the invention have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention, entitled
UNIVERSAL CONTRACT EXCHANGE

and for which application for Letters Patent of the United States is to be filed of even date herewith by inventor(s), Roger Lancaster.

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small business entity is no longer appropriate. (37 C.F.R. § 1.29 (b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Lancaster Australia Pty Limited

By: R. Lancaster
Roger Lancaster

Its: President

Date: 28th August 1998

669050 62452760

"UNIVERSAL CONTRACT EXCHANGE"Technical Field

This invention concerns trading in financial instruments, such as by use of a computer based cash management trust electronically linked to a computer based clearing house, and an automated real time screen trading system operated by the investor using standard personal computers linked by a communications network to a central clearing house computer.

In particular, this invention concerns a contract exchange and protocol, and in another aspect it concerns a financial instrument.

Background Art

Currently only a select few financial institutions have direct access to the world's major trading markets. The vast majority of companies and individuals have to deal through brokers who execute all trading orders. Most investors are not given direct access to on market exchanges because of their potential lack of credit worthiness with its direct potential adverse effect on other investors or because of its potential disastrous effect on the solvency or credit rating of the clearing house. Other creditworthy investors are denied entry to on market exchanges and some over the counter markets by restrictive trade practices designed for the benefit of existing members.

Many companies, banks, government treasuries, central banks, government authorities, institutions, professional fund managers and individuals worldwide would like direct entry to major world markets and would like to be able to have direct control of order execution from their office or home and also be able to limit their potential losses. Existing major trading markets and financial instruments do not fulfil this need.

Disclosure of the Invention

The invention, as currently envisaged, provides in a first aspect a contract exchange comprising:

a central clearing house computer;
a cash depositing facility, such as computer based cash management fund, electronically linked to the central clearing house computer; and
an automated real time screen trading system operated by investors using personal computers linked by telephone lines to the central clearing house computer.

The contract exchange creates, trades and closes indivisible financial package contracts each of which have two parties, a buyer and a seller, who

are the beneficial owners of the proceeds of a binding obligation requiring a cash settlement based on a settlement price of a specific quantity of a specified type of product at an agreed price, place and time.

The price of the contracts is determined by a market.

- 5 The contracts are geared and investors must make sufficient funds available to a trading account from a depositing facility account to cover the proportion of the value of a contract, as determined by the gearing ratio, before an investor is permitted to buy or sell. As the price moves in the market, the parties to contracts gain or lose the entire changed value of the
- 10 contracts they hold. Either the buyer or the seller makes an incremental profit after each price movement and the counter party makes an incremental loss. The credit is immediately transferred from the trading account of the party making the loss to the party making the profit.

- 15 The clearing house holds options on all the contracts and is able to exercise its option rights to dispose of some or all of a party's contracts in the market if that party's trading, or assigned funds became insufficient to cover the proportion of the value of the contracts held, as determined by the gearing ratio. Should the clearing house be unable to dispose of the
- 20 contracts required in the market then when the contract price moves such that the party's funds fall to zero, it is able to close all that party's contracts at that price, simultaneously closing all the contracts held by the counter parties. Closing takes place without delay and without the involvement of any other parties.

- 25 When the clearing house is exercising its option rights and attempting to dispose of a party's contracts in the market and a counter party enters the opposite parameter of the market, then the clearing house may close all the party and counter party contracts that are in the market at the same time.

- 30 If a party has sufficient funds to cover the proportion of the value of the contracts held, as determined by the gearing ratio, at the last sale price but not at the price of one of the market parameters, and a counter party enters the market at that parameter to close a position, the clearing house may close sufficient of the party's contracts with the counter party's contracts so that the party no longer has insufficient funds to cover the
- 35 proportion of the value of the contracts held at the price of that market parameter.

09125479-050699

In order to create a new indivisible financial package contract the clearing house must enter into a purchase contract with the buyer of the contract, and enter into a sale contract with the seller of that contract at the same price.

5 The contract exchange may provide direct entry to the market, and the opportunity to trade 24 hours a day, to potential investors from every office and home in the world. Trading need never cease on the Contract Exchange even with an external world catastrophe.

10 The investor must have cleared funds in a deposit facility (cash management trust) account electronically linked with the clearing house before he can commence trading. An investor need not be evaluated for credit worthiness by the clearing house or other investors as it is irrelevant to the system. The potential losses of investors are restricted to a pre-determined maximum level; that is the amount assigned to trading.

15 The Contract Exchange has less theoretical chance of defaulting, invoicing back contracts, repricing contracts, or avoiding contracts than the world's existing major stock exchanges, option exchanges, futures exchanges or other exchanges.

20 An investor may reinvest unrealised surplus assigned funds (perhaps derived from unrealised profits) from his trading account into further contracts, or transfer unrealised surplus assigned funds via his cash management trust account back to himself. Reinvestment may be conducted automatically by the clearing house if desired.

25 An investor may have part of or all of his position closed out by the exercise of the clearing house held option if he does not maintain the minimum required assigned funds for the position. If the clearing house exercises its option with both the party and counter party without the counter party giving a trading order the counter party will never be limited by this exercise of the clearing house held option to less than a 100% gain on
30 the minimum required assigned funds for his position from a particular point of time.

35 The number of head products covered by the contracts could eventually be greater than any other individual financial market as the number of potential users of the market is broader because of its open access policy and attributes mentioned above. Thus, small individual segments of any world market could be covered.

669050 "6454750

The contracts also provide a hedging tool to diversify risk with unique hedging advantages.

In another aspect the invention provides a protocol for trading on a contract exchange, comprising the steps of:

5 providing a central clearing house computer;

providing a cash depositing facility such as computer based cash management fund electronically linked to the central clearing house computer;

10 providing an automated real time screen trading system operated by investors using personal computers linked by telephone lines to the central clearing house computer;

15 creating, trading and closing indivisible financial package contracts each of which have two parties, a buyer and a seller, who are the beneficial owners of the proceeds of a binding obligation requiring a cash settlement based on a settlement price of a specific quantity of a specified type of product at an agreed price, place and time;

determining the price of the contracts by operation of a market;

20 gearing the contracts and monitoring the funds each investor has available to ensure each investor has sufficient funds available in a trading account to cover the proportion of the value of a contract, as determined by the gearing ratio, before an investor is permitted to buy or sell;

25 exercising option rights to dispose of some or all of a party's contracts in the market if that party's funds become insufficient to cover the proportion of the value of the contracts held, as determined by the gearing ratio;

30 if unable to dispose of the contracts required in the market then, when the contract price moves such that the party's funds fall to zero, closing all that party's contracts at that price, and simultaneously closing all the contracts held by the counter parties. Closing takes place without delay and without the involvement of any other parties.

When exercising option rights and attempting to dispose of a party's contracts in the market and a counter party enters the opposite parameter of the market, closing all the party and counter party contracts that are in the market at the same time.

35 If a party has sufficient funds to cover the proportion of the value of the contracts held, as determined by the gearing ratio, at the last sale price

552050 "6453160

but not at the price of one of the market parameters, and a counter party enters the market at that parameter to close a position, option rights will be exercised to close sufficient of the party's contracts with the counter party's contracts so that the party no longer has insufficient funds to cover the proportion of the value of the contracts held at the price of that market parameter.

As the price moves in the market, requiring the parties to contracts to gain or lose the entire change in value of the contracts they hold so that either the buyer or the seller makes an incremental profit after each price movement and the counter party makes an incremental loss, and immediately transferring the credit from the trading account of the party making the loss to the party making the profit.

In a further aspect the invention provides a unique indivisible financial package contract which is a binding obligation requiring a mandatory cash settlement based on a settlement price of a specific quantity of a specified type of product at an agreed price, place and time. Each contract has two parties, a buyer and a seller, who are the beneficial owners of the proceeds of the binding obligation.

When holding contracts, the price moves as determined by market forces.

The contracts are geared and investors must make sufficient funds available to a trading account from the depositing facility account to cover the proportion of the value of a contract, as determined by the gearing ratio, before an investor is permitted to buy or sell. As the price moves in the market, the parties to contracts gain or lose the entire change of value of the contracts they hold. Either the buyer or the seller makes an incremental profit after each price movement and the counter party makes an incremental loss. The credit is immediately transferred from the trading account of the party making the loss to the party making the profit.

The clearing house holds options on all the contracts and is able to exercise its option rights to dispose of some or all of a party's contracts in the market if that party's funds became insufficient to cover the proportion of the value of the contracts held, as determined by the gearing ratio. Should the clearing house be unable to dispose of the contracts required in the market then when the contract price moves such that the party's funds fall to zero, it is able to close all that party's contracts at that price, simultaneously

663050 "6422160

closing all the contracts held by the counter parties. Closing takes place without delay and without the involvement of any other parties.

When the clearing house is exercising its option rights and attempting to dispose of a party's contracts in the market and a counter party enters the opposite parameter of the market, then the clearing house may close all the party and counter party contracts that are in the market at that time.

If a party has sufficient funds to cover the proportion of the value of the contracts held, as determined by the gearing ratio, at the last sale price but not at the price of one of the market parameters, and a counter party enters the market at that parameter to close a position, the clearing house may close sufficient of the party's contracts with the counter party's contracts so that the party no longer has insufficient funds to cover the proportion of the value of the contracts held at the price of that market parameter.

In order to create a new indivisible financial package contract the clearing house must enter into a purchase contract with the buyer of the contract, and enter into a sale contract with the seller of that contract at the same price.

Best Mode of the Invention

Trading Format

General Trading Procedures

A Contract Exchange cash management trust is electronically attached to the clearing house. Before an investor can trade he must have suitable software, hard ware and communications line and he must have completed an application form in relation to opening a cash management trust account and entered into an agreement-contract (Trading Agreement and Risk Disclosure Statement) with the Contract Exchange that binds the investor to the Contract Exchange Rules. The completed application form and agreement-contract must be lodged with an agent bank. At the same time the investor must deposit funds with the agent bank and the funds must be cleared prior to their transfer to his cash management trust account. For security reasons an investor can only trade in the same name as the name of his cash management trust account. Similarly cheques will only be paid from his cash management trust account to a drawee or funds transferred, in the same name as the cash management trust account name.

Investors will earn a commercial rate of interest on the funds in their cash management trust account and a commercial rate of interest on funds in their clearing house assigned funds account. All clearing house funds will be deposited in an account with the cash management trust.

5 Funds will be swept out of the investor's cash management trust account to his assigned funds account with the clearing house when the investor gives his initial trading order. Further funds may also be swept out of the investor's cash management trust account at a later date at the investor's request. The investor has the right to designate or assign the level
10 of funds he wishes to put at risk in trading. It may only be a small portion of his cash management trust account balance. Only funds available in the investor's cash management account can be assigned to trading, to form part of an investor's total assigned funds. The clearing house has no recourse to the investor for anything other than the funds in the investor's assigned
15 funds accounts. The clearing house will automatically only accept a trading order from an investor if he has the required funds necessary to be assigned to trading available in his cash management trust account or in his accounts with the clearing house if he has surplus assigned funds in those accounts. The clearing house will terminate an accepted trading order if at any time
20 prior to the trading order being executed the investor has insufficient assigned funds to cover the given trading order. The minimum required assigned funds to cover the position to be opened will be needed if no surplus funds are also assigned. If surplus funds are assigned to the position the clearing house will terminate an accepted trading order if those surplus
25 assigned funds cease to be available.

Funds will automatically be swept from the investor's clearing house assigned funds account to (and remain deposited in) the investor's cash management trust account at the time a contract class position is closed out or on the termination date of the contract unless the investor has given a
30 contrary mandate or instruction to the clearing house.

A gearing system applies with the contract. In the books of accounts of the Contract Exchange clearing house all investors' assigned funds accounts are debited and credited automatically with every price movement of their contracts during the day, every day. The contract clearing house
35 automatically monitors all positions with every price fluctuation. This is a simple task as the clearing house can calculate positions prior to price

66909-05060

movements if necessary and can collate similar positions together. The clearing house acts in an automated way as set down in the Contract Exchange Rules. The clearing house may act as an authorised agent without discretion for investors in market activities. To assist in facilitating these activities a minimum bid (tick) market is always provided. If the market moves against an investor giving the investor insufficient assigned funds to cover his contracts to conform with the acceptable gearing ratio, the clearing house automatically attempts to exercise its option and acts as agent on the investor's contracts and places a trading order at the last traded price ie. at the market offer (ask) price if selling and at the market bid price if buying and attempts to novate contract holders or close out sufficient contracts so that the investor's assigned funds are sufficient for the reduced number of contracts that the Rules allow him to hold given the investor's level of assigned funds after accounting for realised and unrealised losses and gains. Similarly the clearing house may be acting as agent and be automatically increasing the number of contracts of other investors if those investors have selected the trading method that directs the clearing house to automatically reinvest specified unrealised surplus assigned funds into further contracts to increase those investors' exposure.

Each contract type will have a set minimum bid (tick) suitable and realistic to that contract type. This will be partly determined by the recent trading history and depth of existing markets.

Trading orders are collated and quantities are shown on the screen at each quoted buy and sell price near the market excluding bids higher than the market offer price and offers lower than the market bid price. Trading orders are queued according to price and time with the clearing house taking its position as agent in the queue as appropriate. However clearing house crossings such as an Exempt Market Crossing or an Exempt Closing Crossing that close out both a contract and a contra position contract are exempt from market participation and queuing, as is a clearing house crossing such as an Exempt Opening Crossing that opens both a contract and a contra position contract. No other crossings are exempt from market participation. In most situations at each price the clearing house will probably be in the queue to buy or sell contracts. However, at times the clearing house may have no trading orders to execute.

The clearing house does not necessarily have an active market function as an agent at every price change. However, if the minimum bid market does not include a bid or offer price that gives the clearing house a neutral position as an agent (a position whereby it needs to do nothing other than execute Exempt Market Crossings) then the clearing house automatically gives a trading order and joins the queue in the same way as other investors if any contract is not backed or supported by the minimum required assigned funds or if an investor has selected a trading method that directs the clearing house to act as agent to increase the investor's number of contracts. The clearing house as an agent gives trading orders at the market offer price if selling and the market bid price if buying except with Exempt Opening Crossings. This may mean in a rapidly moving market that the clearing house, in its agent activities, is unable to novate contract holders or close out contracts in the market. The clearing house in its agent activities will give priority in its trading orders to contracts that have a deficiency of assigned funds. The clearing house computer will proportionally then randomly allocate sales within each category of trading order from its agent activities if it cannot fulfil all orders at a preferred price.

If the clearing house as an agent is attempting to dispose of contracts in the market or if an investor has a deficiency in his minimum required assigned funds at one of the market parameters in a contract class (contract type, month and trading position) and any of the contra position contracts appear on market on one of the market parameters where an investor has a deficiency then the clearing house closes out sufficient of those contracts in an Exempt Market Crossing so that the investor has no deficiency in his minimum required assigned funds at the price of the Exempt Market Crossing. The investor thus then has the minimum required assigned funds for the number of contracts he holds at the price of the Exempt Market Crossing.

The clearing house would execute the Exempt Market Crossing at the market price offered or market price bid by the contra position contract holder. When selecting the specific contracts out of a contract holder's batch of contracts for disposal, the clearing house will in each circumstance randomly select either a LIFO or FIFO method of stock control unless contra position contracts to others in the batch appear on market. In this

circumstance, the clearing house will dispose of the contracts that can be applied in an Exempt Market Crossing.

If an investor directly closes out all or part of his position in the market the clearing house automatically adjusts, if need be, the number of contracts that it is attempting to dispose of in the market on that investor's behalf. Similarly, if the investor has given and had accepted a direct trading order to close out a position that trading order is automatically adjusted (if necessary) in regards to quantity after acceptance, if in the intervening time the clearing house disposes of contracts on behalf of that investor prior to the investor's direct trading order being executed.

The more the market moves against an investor with an insufficient assigned funds position for a contract class the more of the investor's contracts the clearing house must attempt to dispose of in the market. In a normal market the clearing house will be able to novate contract holders or close out contracts in the market, or both, so that an investor has sufficient assigned funds to cover the remaining number of contracts held. However, traumatic or surprise events do at times cause a market to gap or rapidly move in one direction. For example, assume the contracts are geared 25:1 and the market suddenly gaps 10% on negligible turnover and the clearing house cannot novate the contract holder nor close out the contracts it wishes to in the market nor does the opportunity arise for it to perform any Exempt Market Crossings. An investor on the wrong side of the market may have insufficient assigned funds to cover the gapping movement. At 25:1 gearing the investor may have only provided 4% ($1/25 \times 100\%$) of the contract value. The clearing house automatically follows the Contract Exchange Rules and closes out the investor's contract in an Exempt Closing Crossing at a price equal to the price that his assigned funds in that contract class are first exhausted (zero) once that price is between the market parameters or at the market offer parameter if the investor has a long position or at the market bid parameter if the investor has a short position. That investor has no further liability.

With every transaction that a contract is opened rather than novation occurring, the clearing house simultaneously enters into a long contract and a short contract. If an investor's contract is closed out (as the clearing house has been consistently unsuccessful in its market activities, perhaps due to a gapping market) in a clearing house executed Exempt Closing Crossing with

other investors being excluded from participation, the investor with the contra position contract also has his contract simultaneously and automatically closed out by the exercise of the clearing house held option (as stated in the Contract Exchange Rules) even without his presence in the market. The investor on the right side of the market has made a 100% gain on his minimum required assigned funds invested in the contract from the later of the time that the contract position was established or the last point of time that the contra position contract to his contract was backed or supported by the minimum required assigned funds prior to the Exempt Closing Crossing.

The contract can only be transferred through the Contract Exchange. All settlements on the Exchange are in cash with no physical delivery. Mandatory cash settlement of a contract occurs automatically at the termination time on the termination day of the contract at the cash settlement price, as all contracts with the same termination time (and date) that are open at that time are then closed out at that time.

The Trading Order

An investor must use Identification and Passwords to log on to the trading system in a similar way to other screen trading systems. To gain entry to the market, execute a trading order or have a trading order appear on the screen an investor must give a trading order making up to nine statements:

- (1) the contract type
- (2) the contract month
- (3) the trading position: buyer or seller
- (4) the direction to open or expand a position, to close or reduce a position, to terminate a prior trading order, to adjust a prior trading order. Only the investor's last prior trading order can be terminated or adjusted in a contract class.
- (5) the quantity of contracts
- (6) the price of the contracts either "now" - at the earliest opportunity, or a price limit per contract. The price limit sub-statement and the "now" sub-statement can both be made separately or the sub-statements can be made concurrently with "now" activated first if not, or until blocked by the price limit.

- (7) the preferred trading method either accept accumulation of surplus assigned funds, or build up contract numbers
- (8) the mandate for the clearing house as agent at the termination date of the contract to reinvest in the next contract month on a similar basis to the degree that assigned funds allow, or the standard cash settlement at the termination date.
- (9) the nature of the limit on the transfer of funds to be assigned to trading for the contract class. For instance:
excluded contract class assigned funds accounts or cash management trust accounts;
assigned funds limit;
assigned funds limit equivalent to all the investor's funds in his cash management trust account and any surpluses in other contract assigned funds accounts; or
solely included contract class assigned funds accounts or cash management account.

In relation to the transfer of funds the second or the third sub-statements above must be provided if the statement is to be made. The sequence and priorities of sub-statements may be relevant.

- The nine statements must be made when initially opening a position in a contract class although only the first six statements may need to be made when adding to a position. The first six statements only must be made when closing a position. The first four statements only must be made when terminating a trading order. At least the first four statements plus other(s) must be made when adjusting a trading order.

Directions to Open/Close/Terminate/Adjust

- If an investor has both long and short positions open in a contract type he must provide the normal minimum required assigned funds for each long position and each short position. Therefore it is important to state that a position is being closed out if that is the intention. If an investor wishes to terminate or cancel a trading order he can do so at any time prior to its execution. Trading orders remain active until terminated. Similarly an investor can adjust or amend a trading order (but not alter information in the first three statements) although the timing of his trading order may be changed for queuing purposes. If any information in the first three

Price

25 A further safety limit will be placed on all trading orders. A trading order will be terminated by the clearing house unless adjusted by the investor (for confirmation purposes) if and when the trading order (and perhaps other trading orders) moves the market more than the equivalent of the gearing ratio (ie. if the gearing ratio is 10:1, 10% of the market price). This rule will place a limit on investor trading order errors that may be particularly relevant in a thinly traded contract type if no arbitrage is present in or attracted to the market.

35 An investor can only use one trading method at a time in each contract class and a trading method cannot be altered while a position is open. All investors are offered two alternative trading methods with the clearing house acting in the market as agent on behalf of the investor when required to do so. In broad terms either the investor accumulates any gained

assigned funds or the investor invests any gained assigned funds into further contracts.

If accumulating funds, the minimum required assigned funds are automatically topped up when needed from surplus assigned funds when they are available. If no surplus assigned funds are available the clearing house is to dispose of the contracts if necessary so that the adjusted number of contracts are covered by the minimum required assigned funds.

If investing, the minimum required assigned funds are automatically topped up when needed from surplus assigned funds when they are available. If no surplus assigned funds are available the clearing house is to dispose of the contracts if necessary so that the adjusted number of contracts are covered by the minimum required assigned funds. The clearing house is to reinvest all surplus assigned funds over the initial level of the surplus assigned funds account into contracts of the same contract class. If surplus assigned funds are applied to, or used to top up the minimum required assigned funds they are accumulated again (subject to favourable price movements) to their previous maximum level (plus fractions).

Mandate to Reinvest the Cash Settlement

This facility allows an investor to make a long term investment if he wishes simply by giving an initial trading order with appropriate assigned funds. A position can automatically be rolled-on (rolled over) at the termination date of each contract. This involves the investor giving the clearing house a mandate to act as agent to reinvest the investor's mandatory cash settlement funds into contracts in the next later-dated contract month on a similar basis to the extent that the investor's mandatory cash settlement funds allow. The mandate given by an investor must be consistent within a contract class while a position is open. If the investor is using a trading method that accumulates surplus assigned funds the clearing house will attempt to re-establish a position with the same number of contracts previously held by the investor. If the investor is using a trading method that increases the number of contracts when the appropriate assigned funds are available then the clearing house will attempt to re-establish a position with as many contracts as possible with the available funds. When given such a mandate by an investor the clearing house will cross in Exempt Opening Crossings as many contracts as possible at the later-dated contract last market price at the termination time of the terminated contract. The

balance of the contracts will immediately be bought or sold in the market by a clearing house "now" trading order at the lowest offer market price(s) if buying and the highest bid market price(s) if selling. The number of contracts the clearing house intends to buy or sell in this fashion will be shown on the screen one hour prior to the termination time to encourage as many arbitragers and traders into the market as possible so that the clearing house can obtain the best possible price for the investors for whom it is acting. The clearing house computer will proportionally then randomly allocate the investors' contracts that had been successfully traded in the Exempt Opening Crossing and proportionally then randomly allocate the remaining contracts traded in the market outside the Exempt Opening Crossing. A clearing fee will be applicable on all contracts bought and sold.

Internal Transfer of Funds

An investor may have a number of positions open at one time. The internal funds transfer system is structured to provide the investor with a great deal of flexibility. Upon receiving a trading order the minimum required assigned funds (plus surplus assigned funds if so directed by the investor) are automatically transferred, if required, to the investor's appropriate contract class assigned funds account with the clearing house. All assigned funds accounts are part of the books of accounts of the clearing house. If the investor already has sufficient surplus assigned funds in the appropriate contract class assigned funds account no funds are necessarily required from his cash management trust account or from other assigned funds accounts (with surpluses). Only an investor's surplus assigned funds (including unrealised assigned funds but excluding the minimum required assigned funds for an incompleted order) can be swept to his cash management trust account at any time. The investor as a statement in his trading order can include a global limit on the sweep authorised from his cash management trust account or any of his other contract class assigned funds accounts to his specified contract class assigned funds account. In such circumstances priority will be given to sweeping funds from the investor's cash management trust account prior to his other assigned funds accounts unless the investor has given a contrary instruction in his trading order. If in the trading order or in subsequent directions the investor specifies the contract class assigned funds accounts available for sweeping then those accounts will be swept when and if required in the order of

priority stated in the trading order or in subsequent directions assuming surplus assigned funds are available in those accounts. An investor can specifically exclude contract class accounts or the cash management trust account from sweeping. If an investor does not restrict the funds to be

5 assigned to a contract class assigned funds account then his whole cash management trust account balance is transferred to that assigned funds account and surpluses from other assigned funds accounts are automatically swept to that assigned funds account if required. The investor can at any time add to the assigned funds of a specified contract class assigned funds

10 account. This can involve either a sweep from the investor's cash management trust account or a sweep when required from one or more of the investor's other contract class assigned funds accounts to the specified contract class assigned funds account.

For overall consistency and to facilitate simpler funds calculations for investors, all contracts will be quoted on a price basis including contracts that have an underlying product of a debt security or a debt security option.

Market Maker

The clearing house will appoint a Market Maker for each contract type. The Market Maker will be offered fee-free trading on market making activities and a discount on other contracts traded in that contract type, or paid a fee for his services. The clearing house may also provide the Market Maker with categorised market information on the selected trading methods and levels of assigned funds for the relevant contract class. The Market Maker's role will be to automatically make a market for one or two contracts

20 (ie. a programmed computer Market Maker with an underlying clearing house approved minimum contract market making program) so that there is never more than a minimum bid between the quoted buy and sell prices with the market always being a minimum bid market at the last sale price. Prices will thus only change at a minimum bid at a time. In practice there

25 will be a minimum of say one or two seconds between each change of the market parameters but there need not be a time period between sales at the same market parameters. The last buyer of a contract has the right to become the first seller in the queue (ie. jump the queue) of a contract at a tick lower price. Similarly the last seller of a contract has the right to

30 become the first buyer in the queue of a contract at a tick higher price. This will help facilitate a minimum bid market and reduce the costs of the Market

35

0912549.05099

Maker in a gapping market. The Market Maker will always top up his minimum required assigned funds if needed in his one contract market making activities. In a gapping market the Market Maker may be trading with himself. If for extreme example a market gaps 10% and the Market

5 Maker is trading with himself in the most conservative way possible then the most the Market Maker can loose is 10% of the value of one contract. Most contract types will have a moderate value (eg. a gold contract will be one ounce). This will also reduce the costs of the Market Maker and the need for his services.

10 Odd Lot Facilitator

An odd lot facility will be provided to increase the average size of each trade for large investors, execute many small trading orders instantly, reduce the electronic equivalent of paper work and encourage all investors regardless of size. Each contract type will have a designated marketable

15 parcel. For example a marketable parcel in gold may be 100 contracts (100 ounces). A marketable parcel may be 10,000 contracts if the underlying product is a low priced product such as a low priced equity or a low priced option. An investor can open and close and buy and sell contracts in odd lot numbers in quantities as small as one contract although the minimum

20 clearing fee charged is the fee for a marketable parcel.

However, to directly execute a trading order smaller than a marketable parcel an investor can only deal at the market offer price if he is buying and the market bid price if he is selling. A trading order smaller than a marketable parcel with contrary price instruction will be rejected but an

25 investor with an odd lot is not forced to deal at a price that is not one of the market parameters at the time the trading order was received. Odd lots smaller than a marketable parcel other than odd lots being dealt with by the clearing house in it's agent market activities must be bought from and/or sold to the Odd Lot Facilitator or the Market Maker. The Odd Lot Facilitator who

30 is not subject to queuing rules or standard clearing fees with odd lots must bid for odd lots at the market bid price for one less contract than a marketable parcel if a marketable parcel is being bid for in the market and must offer for odd lots at the market offer price for one less contract than a marketable parcel if a marketable parcel is being offered in the market (ie.

35 the Odd Lot Facilitator will not be disadvantaged in a gapping market). The Odd Lot Facilitator must use a clearing house approved minimum odd lot

computerised dealing program. The Odd Lot Facilitator position is not necessary for the success of the system but it contributes a little. Also, if it is in place it may be useful if the market system ever appeared to be over loading.

5 Terms of a Long and Short Contract

The contract is a synthetic financial instrument originated by the clearing house of the Contract Exchange.

When the contracts are traded, contract holders may be novated. The process of novation of a contract holder involves one party to a contract being substituted for another party and taking over the former party's contractual responsibilities. However, if a new contract is written, opened or established the position is as follows: The buyer of a contract enters into a separate contract with the clearing house. The seller of a contract enters into another separate contract with the clearing house. The clearing house does not enter into a contract with a buyer of a contract if the clearing house is unable to contract with a seller at the same price. Similarly the clearing house does not enter into a contract with a seller of a contract if the clearing house is unable to contract with a buyer at the same price. The clearing house is thus always perfectly hedged in all its "principal" positions and always remains that way. For Exchange accounting purposes, the clearing house is not in a principal position. A contract holder acknowledges in his initial agreement-contract (the Trading Agreement and Risk Disclosure Statement that binds a potential contract holder to the Contract Exchange Rules) that all contract holders or future contract holders can be novated or closed out in a contract by the clearing house at any time within the Rules and at the absolute (automated) discretion of the clearing house. A contract holder also acknowledges in the Trading Agreement and Risk Disclosure Statement that the clearing house enters into contra position contracts in relation to all contracts and that if the assigned funds covering a contra position contract becomes zero at any price between the market parameters or on the appropriate market parameter, then the then current contract holder's contract can be terminated by the contract being closed out in an Exempt Closing Crossing even if that contract was obtained after a series of novations.

35 A contract holder can close out a contract position in the market at any time assuming buyers and sellers can agree on price.

A party to a contract is the beneficial owner of the proceeds of a unique indivisible financial package contract. The contract is a binding obligation enforceable at law requiring a mandatory cash settlement based on a settlement price of a specific quantity of a specified type of product at a
 5 agreed price, place and time. The clearing house holds an option on the contract. The option is exercisable at any time under certain conditions. The option is granted to and held by the clearing house in all cases and circumstances as irrevocable agent for the contract holder. In relation to a contract that the clearing house has novated the contract holder by
 10 exercising its option, the option is re-granted to the clearing house upon novation of the contract. The clearing house ceases to hold an option on a contract once the contract is closed out. All proceeds derived from agent activities of the clearing house accrue to the relevant beneficial owner. The conditions or terms of the contract form part of the Contract Exchange Rules.

15 Market Price and Gearing Ratio Assumptions

- (1) S = the last market price that the seller's contract was backed by the minimum required assigned funds.
- (2) B = the last market price that the buyer's contract was backed by the minimum required assigned funds.
- 20 (3) the contract type is geared for example at 25:1. That is, 4% of the contract value at the market price is required as funds in the investors' appropriate contract class assigned funds account as the minimum required assigned funds.
- (4) the buyer's contract and the seller's contract are the contra position
 25 contracts to each other.
- (5) historical data is constantly updated.

Long Contract

The buyer and holder of a contract has a contract requiring mandatory cash settlement based on the settlement price of a specific
 30 quantity of specified type of purchased product at an agreed price, place and time. The clearing house holds a call option on the contract. The call option is exercisable at any time under certain conditions. The call option is granted to and held by the clearing house as irrevocable agent for the contract holder. The conditions or terms of the (one) call option held by the
 35 clearing house as irrevocable agent are described below in parts (i) and (ii).

669050" 66452160

- (i) A "progress" call option on the contract with a strike price of $S + S/25$.

5 If the contra position contract holder's (seller's) assigned funds in the contract falls to zero at a price between the market parameters or at the market bid parameter, then the clearing house performs an Exempt Closing Crossing at that price. A contract holder (the buyer) with assigned funds (including unrealised assigned funds) equal to or greater than the minimum required assigned funds cannot prevent the clearing house exercising its "progress" call option. However, if
10 the contra position contract assigned funds account always has some assigned funds, then the clearing house will never need to exercise its "progress" call option in relation to the buyer's contract.

In practice the clearing house would only exercise its "progress" call option on the contract by executing an Exempt Closing Crossing if the clearing house is generally unsuccessful in its market activities (perhaps due to a gapping market) in relation to the contra position contract ie. a seller must sell at the bid price the number of contracts bid by the clearing house for the clearing house to be successful in all its agent buying market activities indirectly relevant to the
20 buyer's contract.

- (ii) A "protection" call option on the contract with a strike price between $<B$ and down to and including $B - B/25$.

In practice the clearing house would always attempt to exercise its "protection" call option by attempting to novate the contract
25 holder or close out the contract by selling in the market at the first opportunity below B , at either the first market offer parameter opportunity below B taking into account the queuing rules by offering the market offer parameter price or in an Exempt Market Crossing with the contra position contract at a market bid price or a
30 market offer price if such an opportunity arises. If there is no market opportunity in relation to the contract between $<B$ and down to and including $B - B/25$ (and a buyer must purchase at the offer price the number of contracts offered by the clearing house for the clearing house to be successful in all its agent selling market activities
35 relevant to the contract other than with an Exempt Market Crossing) the clearing house would exercise its "protection" call option at $B -$

10

15

20

(i)

35

equal to or greater than the minimum required assigned funds cannot prevent the clearing house exercising its "progress" put option. However, if the contra position contract assigned funds account always has some assigned funds then the clearing house will never need to exercise its "progress" put option.

(ii) A "protection" put option on the contract at a strike price between $>S$ and up to and including $S + S/25$.

In practice the clearing house would always attempt to exercise its "protection" put option by attempting to novate the contract holder or close out the contract by buying in the market at the first opportunity above S , at either the first market bid parameter opportunity above S taking into account the queuing rules by bidding the market bid parameter price or in an Exempt Market Crossing with the contra position contract at a market offer price or a market bid price if such an opportunity arises. If there is no market opportunity in relation to the contract between $>S$ and up to and including $S + S/25$ (and a seller must sell at the bid price the number of contracts bid by the clearing house for the clearing house to be successful in all its agent buying market activities other than with an Exempt Market Crossing), the clearing house would exercise its "protection" put option at $S + S/25$ by closing out the contract in an Exempt Closing Crossing with other investors being excluded from participation. The clearing house only closes out the contract in an Exempt Closing Crossing if the contract holder's whole assigned funds position in the contract class is zero between the market parameters or at the market bid parameter. If a contract holder has a parcel of contracts the clearing house only buys sufficient contracts to bring the position to within the acceptable gearing ratio at that purchase price. A contract holder who has assigned funds (including unrealised assigned funds) equal to or greater than the minimum required assigned funds at the market offer price prevents the exercise of the "protection" put option and does so as long as his assigned funds remain equal to or greater than the minimum required assigned funds.

The Clearing House "progress" Option

It is current practice for many fund managers and investors to write options on specific securities or on portfolios. These options are sometimes exercised and sometimes not exercised. The contract clearing house only
5 exercises its "progress" options when it has been unable to dispose of the contracts that is regards as the contra position contracts in the market, due to insufficient market demand for those contra position contracts and as a consequence the contra position contract holder's assigned funds had fallen to zero.

10 The clearing house at its absolute (automated) discretion may within the Rules novate a contract holder at any time or switch or novate a contract at any time. The holders of a contract may have been novated hundreds of times in relation to that contract. Similarly the holders of a contra position contract may have been novated hundreds of times in relation to that contra
15 position contract.

Similarly in relation to a contract the contra position contract may have been also novated or switched (ie. the contra position contract, not its holder) many times as the clearing house may close out a long contract at the same time it closes out an unrelated short contract and thus matches the
20 two remaining open contracts. Of those two remaining contracts, each one becomes the contra position contract to the other. If the clearing house is not able to dispose of any contra position contracts in the market or is only able to dispose of a portion of the contra position contracts it wishes to in the market including Exempt Market Crossings, it must close out the balance
25 that had not been successfully disposed of in the market in an Exempt Closing Crossing (with other investors excluded from participation) when the assigned funds position on those contra position contracts becomes zero. If at any particular price the clearing house can only fulfil part of its attempted novation or closing out of contracts by acting in the market on a
30 number of different investors' contracts, then the clearing house computer would proportionally then randomly select those contracts of the relevant contract holders that had been successfully traded in the market and those that had been closed out in Exempt Closing Crossings.

Underlying Products Traded

35 The contracts could be traded on all homogeneous products that have an existing market such as commodities, currencies, any financial

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

instruments that can be priced in an accepted way (including bonds, bills etc.), any financial index, a range of equities and options traded by any option clearing house. The range of contract types could be expanded to cover a wider selection of products as the level of demand is determined in each area. The contracts could also be traded on any derivative even without an existing market.

Gearing Ratio of Each Contract Type

The gearing (leverage) ratio with a contract is the ratio between the value of the underlying product and the minimum required assigned funds.

- Each contract type will have its own set gearing ratio that applies to all buyers and sellers (but not the clearing house as it is perfectly hedged in its "principal" positions). The gearing ratio will be partly dependant on the volatility of the price of the underlying product and partly dependant (at least initially) on the depth of turnover of the underlying product. For example, a gearing ratio of a contract type might be similar but a little greater than that applying to clearing members of futures exchanges for a comparable futures contract type, 2:1 or 3:2 if the underlying product is an at-the-money option and 2:1 to 20:1 if the underlying product is a company share. The trading history of each underlying product and associated products will be closely examined before determining the appropriate gearing ratio for each contract type. Gearing ratios will be set at a level so that the clearing house will rarely (say very approximately once or twice a year) have to perform any Exempt Closing Crossings in the contract type. For example, examination of gold trading and gold futures trading in world markets may result in a gearing ratio of say 25:1. If the underlying product of the contract type is an option more frequent Exempt Closing Crossings will be acceptable. Gearing ratios must be established by the time contract trading commences in a contract month and cannot be altered prior to the termination of trading in that contract month.

Currency Applicable for Trading

- All trading will be done in the currency that the head product is usually traded, eg. US dollars for US Treasury Bonds, Bills and Notes, Eurodollars, most commodities, all currencies, and US equities, Yen for Japanese government bonds, Euroyen and Japanese equities, Australian dollar for Australian bank bills, Australian treasury bonds and Australian equities, Mark for German government bonds and German equities, French

09125479-05059

francs for Notional bond and French equities, UK pound for Gilts, UK equities etc., etc. The cash management trust will have separate accounts for each currency.

5 So an investor with a US dollar cash management account who gave a buy or sell trading order in Japanese government bond contracts would automatically, if need be, have his clearing house Japanese government bond (Yen) contract assigned funds account topped up (with the required level of Yen assigned funds for the position given his trading order) from his US dollar cash management trust account or from his other contract class
10 assigned funds accounts if so specified in his trading order.

Nature of the Cash Management Trust

A Manager (ie. a management company) would control the cash management trust linked to the Contract Exchange. The Manager's role would include the investment of funds into liquid short dated government
15 and prime bank debt securities. The Manager would receive a fee for acting as Manager. An independent trustee company would act as Trustee and be responsible for safeguarding the interests of cash management trust investors (unit holders) and ensuring the provisions of the trust deed are followed. The head office of the Manager would be the same as the head office of the
20 Contract Exchange.

When an investor (unit holder) opens his account the Manager would automatically (in theory) open up accounts in each currency that contract types are traded plus the currency that the investor made his initial deposit. The Manager thus operates a number of trusts denominated in
25 different currencies. The clearing house will keep all its funds held on behalf of investors with the cash management trust. The clearing house in its books of accounts has an assigned funds account for the investor in each contract class in the currency that the contract type is traded. Accounts will have nil balances in them unless the investor's own instructions cause
30 transfers.

Interest will accrue on daily balances in the investor's cash management trust accounts and be credited monthly. Interest will accrue on daily balances in the investor's assigned funds accounts with the clearing house and be credited monthly to the investor's cash management trust
35 accounts. This includes interest on gained unrealised assigned funds but not on lost unrealised assigned funds.

03125479.05069
669050" 62452760

The investor's maximum potential loss of assigned funds from trading contracts is equal to the amount in his assigned funds accounts (including unrealised assigned funds). Any funds in any currency above the minimum required assigned funds needed to cover a contract class in any of the investor's assigned funds accounts are automatically converted if available, when and if required into the currency of the investor's contract class that has a deficiency in the minimum required assigned funds.

Conversions of currency will be automatic and at the most competitive rate available to the Manager. The bank (foreign exchange dealer) that offered the narrowest market for each currency will receive the role of Currency Converter and will receive all the business. The Currency Converter will have a clearing house approved currency conversion program. The Currency Converter's quotes could be varied by the Currency Converter at any time as long as the narrowness of the market provided is maintained. The Currency Converter's market will always be automatically available to enable instant sweeping or transfer of funds between accounts denominated in different currencies. Funds are transferred from an investor's clearing house assigned funds account to his cash management trust account in the currency of the account that the funds are coming from. Investors could make withdrawals from the trust in any currency and cheques or the transfer of funds will only be authorised in the same name as the account. Investors that do not wish to use the Currency Converter should deposit funds into their cash management trust account in the currency applicable to the contract types that they wish to trade.

A bank in each major capital city in the world will act as agent for the cash management trust in both receiving funds, issuing and distributing cheques and/or transferring funds to the appropriate bank accounts. The agent banks may receive a fee from the investor for transferring cleared funds to a central investment management location (probably in London or New York) as well as possible foreign exchange business by converting local funds into other currencies. An application form must be completed by the investor and lodged with the agent bank when he deposits funds for transfer to his account at the cash management trust. The initial application form will also include an agreement-contract (Trading Agreement and Risk Disclosure Statement) that binds the investor to the Contract Exchange Rules.

Arbitrage Between Markets

- Each contract type will probably have the same termination date as the termination date or expiry date of the dominating futures market or options market with the same underlying product. This will encourage
- 5 extensive arbitrage with existing markets as prices will come together at these dates. If futures or options are not currently traded on the head product, monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly termination dates could be used.

Contract Notes

- It is the investor's responsibility to print out his own contract notes
- 10 and trading history directly from his own computer. However, contract notes and trading history and cash flow records could be obtained from the clearing house after payment of a fee from the investor's cash management trust account. There is no scrip involved in the system.

Language of the Trading Screen

- 15 The trading screen, brochures, User Guide, Rules, Trading Agreement and Risk Disclosure Statement, cash management trust application forms and contract notes etc. would be available in a number of languages including English, Japanese, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Cantonese, Mandarin and Portuguese.

20 Clearing Fee

Each contract type will have a clearing fee (fixed charge) for each contract traded in that contract type (including clearing house agent activities).

CONFIDENTIAL

EXAMPLE 1

Long Contract

Buying 10 contracts at \$3700 each, geared at 10:1.

Trading Account

CTRACT PRICE	Assigned Funds per Contract	Profit or Loss per Move	Total Profit or Loss	Remaining Assigned Funds	Number of Contracts	Minimum Required Assigned Funds	Surplus Assigned Funds	Transfer to (from) CMT
\$ 3700	\$ 370	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 3700	10	\$ 3700	\$ 0	\$ (3700)
1.								28

1. Transfer of the Minimum Required Assigned Funds for the purchase of 10 contracts is \$3700 (\$3700 price x 10 contracts ÷ 10 gearing).

A clearing fee is paid from the Cash Management Trust (CMT) and is not shown in these tables.

EXAMPLE 2

Long Contract

Price moves in favour of long contract holder of Example 1.

Trading Account

CTRACT PRICE	Assigned Funds per Contract	Profit or Loss per Move	Total Profit or Loss	Remaining Assigned Funds	Number of Contracts	Minimum Required Assigned Funds	Surplus Assigned Funds	Transfer to (from) CMF
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$
1. 3700	370	0	0	3700	10	3700	0	(3700)
2. 3701	370.1	10	10	3710	10	3701	9	0
								29

2. A \$1 movement in the contract price from \$3700 to \$3701 results in a gain of \$10 (\$1 x 10 contracts).

This \$10 is transferred from the Minimum Required Assignment Funds Account of the counter party who holds the contra position (short) contract. Since the contract price has risen, the assigned funds must rise by \$1 (1\$ rise x 10 contract ÷ 10 gearing), so the long contract holder has only \$9 Surplus Assigned Funds (\$10 profit - \$1 extra assigned funds required).

EXAMPLE 3

Long Contract

Price moves against long contract holder of Example 2.

Trading Account

CTRACT PRICE	Assigned Funds per Contract	Profit or Loss per Move	Total Profit or Loss	Remaining Assigned Funds	Number of Contracts	Minimum Required Assigned Funds	Surplus Assigned Funds	Transfer to (from) CMT
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$
1. 3700	370	0	0	3700	10	3700	0	(3700)
2. 3701	370.1	10	10	3710	10	3701	9	0
3. 3700	370	-10	0	3700	10	3700	0	0
								30

3. A \$1 movement is the contract price from \$3701 to \$3700 results in a loss of \$10 (\$1 x 10 contracts). This is transferred to the counter party. The fall in contract price reduces the Minimum Required Assigned Funds by \$1 and this together with the \$9 Surplus Assigned Funds makes up the amount required for transfer.

EXAMPLE 4

Long Contract

Price continues to move against long contracts holder of Example 3.

Trading Account

CTRACT PRICE	Assigned Funds per Contract	Profit or Loss per Move	Total Profit or Loss	Remaining Assigned Funds	Number of Contracts	Minimum Required Assigned Funds	Surplus Assigned Funds	Transfer to (from) CMT
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$
1. 3700	370	0	0	3700	10	3700	0	(3700)
2. 3701	370.1	10	10	3710	10	3701	9	0
3. 3700	370	-10	0	3700	10	3700	0	0
4. 3699	369.9	-10	-10	3690	10	3699	-9	0
								31

4. A further \$1 movement in the contract price from \$3700 to \$3699 results in a loss of a further \$10. This is transferred to the counter party. The fall in contract price reduces the Minimum Required Assigned Funds required by \$1 leaving a deficit of \$9 in assigned funds.

EXAMPLE 5

Long Contract

Closing a position by selling the 10 contracts of Example 4.

Trading Account

CTRACT PRICE	Assigned Funds per Contract	Profit or Loss per Move	Total Profit or Loss	Remaining Assigned Funds	Number of Contracts	Minimum Required Assigned Funds	Surplus Assigned Funds	Transfer to (from) CMT
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$
1. 3700	370	0	0	3700	10	3700	0	(3700)
2. 3701	370.1	10	10	3710	10	3701	9	0
3. 3700	370	-10	0	3700	10	3700	0	0
4. 3699	369.9	-10	-10	3690	10	3699	-9	0
5. 3699	369.9	0	-10	0	0	0	0	3690

5. The 10 contracts are sold at \$3699 each, and the credit balance is transferred to the Cash Management Trust. The total loss on the position is \$10 due to the price dropping from \$3700 to \$3699.

EXAMPLE 6

Long Contract

Building up contracts from an initial position of holding 100 contracts purchased at \$400 each geared at 10:1.

Trading Account

CTRACT PRICE	Assigned Funds per Contract	Profit or Loss per Move	Total Profit or Loss	Remaining Assigned Funds	Number of Contracts	Minimum Required Assigned Funds	Surplus Assigned Funds	Transfer to (from) CMT
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$
1. 400	40	0	0	4000	100	4000	0	(4000)
2. 402	40.2	200	200	4200	100	4020	180	0
3. 402	40.2	0	200	4200	104	4180.80	19.20	0
								33

2. An increase of \$2 in the contract price results in a gain of \$200 and the need to increase the minimum required assigned funds by \$20, leaving Surplus Assigned Funds of \$180.

3. The \$180 Surplus Assigned Funds is used to purchase 4 more contracts, requiring an increase in the minimum required assigned funds of \$160.80 (40.2 x 4), to \$4180.80, and leaving Surplus Assigned Funds of \$19.20.

EXAMPLE 7**Long Contract**

Reducing contracts from an initial position of holding 100 contracts purchased at \$400 each, geared at 10:1.

CTRACT PRICE	Assigned Funds per Contract	Profit or Loss per Move	Trading Account		Number of Contracts	Minimum Required Assigned Funds	Surplus Assigned Funds	Transfer to (from) CMT
			Total Profit or Loss	Remaining Assigned Funds				
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$
1. 400	40	0	0	4000	100	4000	0	(4000)
2. 399.40	39.94	-60	-60	3940	100	3994	-54	0
3. 399.40	39.94	0	-60	3940	98	3914.12	25.88	0

2. A decrease of 60c in the contract price results in a loss of \$60 and a reduction in the minimum required assigned funds of \$6, leaving an assigned funds deficit of \$54.

3. Because no funds are available for transfer from the Cash Management Trust, the deficit is made up by the sale of two contracts in the market by the Clearing House: an Exempt Market Crossing would take place only if a counter party had appeared on the market parameter and in that case the two contracts would have been closed out. The sale reduces the minimum required assigned funds by \$79.88 (39.94 x 2 contracts) leaving a surplus of \$25.88.

If the tick was 20c rather than 60c then the reduction in contract price from \$400 to \$399.40 would have taken place in three steps. At \$399.80 or \$399.60 the Clearing House would have attempted to remove the contract holders deficit by selling only one contract.

EXAMPLE 8

Long Contract

An Exempt Closing Crossing when the contract price gaps down to bid and offer parameters of \$359 and \$359.20 for the contract holder of Example 7.

Trading Account

CTRACT PRICE	Assigned Funds per Contract	Profit or Loss per Move	Total Profit or Loss	Remaining Assigned Funds	Number of Contracts	Minimum Required Assigned Funds	Surplus Assigned Funds	Transfer to (from) CMT
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$
1. 400	40	0	0	4000	100	4000	0	(4000)
2. 399.40	39.94	-60	-60	3940	98	3914.12	25.88	0
3. 359.196	35.9196	-3940	-4000	0	0	0	0	0

3. An Exempt Closing Crossing on the investors 98 contracts due to the exercise of the Clearing House "protection" call option at precisely \$359.196 where the loss $(\$399.40 - \$359.196) \times 98 = 3940$ equals the remaining assigned funds, as no further funds were made available for transfer from the Cash Management Trust.

In practice, the loss would be transferred to the credit of the counter party tick by tick.

EXAMPLE 9

Long Contract

Typical price fluctuations for 400 contracts purchased at \$100 each, geared at 20:1.

Trading Account

	CTRACT PRICE	Assigned Funds per Contract	Profit or Loss per Move	Total Profit or Loss	Remaining Assigned Funds	Number of Contracts	Minimum Required Assigned Funds	Surplus Assigned Funds	Transfer to (from) CMT
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$
1.	100	5	0	0	2000	400	2000	0	(2000)
2.	98	4.9	-800	-800	1200	244	1195.6	4.4	0
3.	102	5.1	976	176	2176	244	1244.4	931.6	0
4.	99	4.95	-732	-556	1444	244	1207.8	236.2	0
5.	95	4.75	-976	-1532	468	98	465.5	2.5	0
6.	94.5	4.725	-49	-1581	419	88	415.8	3.2	0
7.	95	4.75	44	-1537	463	88	418	45	0
8.	95.2	4.76	17.6	-1519.4	480.6	88	418.88	61.72	0
9.	95.3	4.765	8.8	-1510.6	489.4	88	419.32	70.08	0
10.	95.6	4.78	26.4	-1484.2	515.8	88	420.64	95.16	0
11.	93.3	4.665	-202.4	-1686.6	313.4	67	312.555	0.845	0
12.	98	4.9	314.9	-1371.7	628.3	67	328.3	300	0
13.	99	4.95	67	-1304.7	695.3	67	331.65	363.65	0
14.	100	5	67	-1237.7	762.3	67	335	427.3	0
15.	105	5.25	335	-902.7	1097.3	67	351.75	745.55	0
16.	110	5.5	335	-567.7	1432.3	67	368.5	1063.8	0
17.	112	5.6	134	-433.7	1566.3	67	375.2	1191.1	0

Short Contract

Progress the control starting position of Example 9, where 400 contracts to sell were sold at \$100 each, geared at 20:1.

Trading Account								
CTRACT PRICE	Assigned Funds per Contract	Profit or Loss per Move	Total Profit or Loss	Remaining Assigned Funds	Number of Contracts	Minimum Required Assigned Funds	Surplus Assigned Funds	Transfer to (from) CMT
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$
1. 100	5	0	0	2000	400	2000	0	(2000)
2. 98	4.9	800	800	2800	400	1960	840	0
3. 102	5.1	-1600	-800	1200	235	1198.5	1.5	0
4. 99	4.95	705	-95	1905	235	1163.25	741.75	0
5. 95	4.75	940	845	2845	235	1116.25	1728.75	0
6. 94.5	4.725	117.5	962.5	2962.5	235	1110.375	1852.125	0
7. 95	4.75	-117.5	845	2845	235	1116.25	1728.75	0
8. 95.2	4.76	-47	798	2798	235	1118.6	1679.4	0
9. 95.3	4.765	-23.5	774.5	2774.5	235	1119.775	1654.725	0
10. 95.6	4.78	-70.5	704	2704	235	1123.3	1580.7	0
11. 93.3	4.665	540.5	1244.5	3244.5	235	1096.275	2148.225	0
12. 98	4.9	-1104.5	140	2140	235	1151.5	988.5	0
13. 99	4.95	-235	-95	1905	235	1163.25	741.75	0
14. 100	5	-235	-330	1670	235	1175	495	0
15. 105	5.25	-1175	-1505	495	94	493.5	1.5	0
16. 110	5.5	-470	-1975	25	4	22	3	0
17. 112	5.6	-8	-1983	17	3	16.8	0.2	0
								37

Note how the number of contracts varies from Example 9.

Exempt Closing "Protection" put option

EXAMPLE 11

Short Contract

An Exempt Closing Crossing when the contract price gaps upwards.

Includes trading method that builds up contract numbers.

Trading Account

	CTR PRICE	Assigned Funds per Contract	Profit or Loss per Move	Total Profit or Loss	Remaining Assigned Funds	Number of Contracts	Minimum Required Assigned Funds	Surplus Assigned Funds	Transfer to (from) CMT
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$
1.	100	5	0	0	2000	400	2000	0	
2.	98	4.9	800	800	2800	571	2797.9	2.1	
3.	102	5.1	-228.4	-148.4	516	101	515.1	0.9	
4.	99	4.95	303	-118.1	819	165	816.75	2.25	
5.	95	4.75	660	-521	1479	311	1477.25	1.75	
6.	94.5	4.725	155.5	-365.5	1634.5	345	1630.125	4.375	
7.	95	4.75	-172.5	-538	1462	307	1458.25	3.75	
8.	95.2	4.76	-61.4	-599.4	1400.6	294	1399.44	1.16	
9.	95.3	4.765	-29.4	-628.8	1371.2	287	1367.555	3.645	
10.	95.6	4.78	-86.1	-714.9	1285.1	268	1281.04	4.06	
11.	93.3	4.665	616.4	-98.5	1901.5	407	1898.655	2.845	
12.	97.972	4.8986	-1901.504	-2000	0	0	0	0	
13.	98	4.9	0	-2000	0	0	0	0	
14.	99	4.95	0	-2000	0	0	0	0	
15.	100	5	0	-2000	0	0	0	0	
16.	105	5.25	0	-2000	0	0	0	0	

38

\$
(2000)

12. Exempt Closing Crossing on the investor's 407 contracts due to the exercise of the clearing house "protection" put option.

EXAMPLE 12

Long Contract

The Exempt Closing Crossing for the original counter party to Example 11 but counter parties later vary with novation and opening and closing contracts.

Includes trading method that builds up contract numbers.

Trading Account

CTRACT PRICE	Assigned Funds per Contract	Profit or Loss per Move	Total Profit or Loss	Remaining Assigned Funds	Number of Contracts	Minimum Required Assigned Funds	Surplus Assigned Funds	Transfer to (from) CMT
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$
1. 100	5	0	0	2000	400	2000	0	(2000)
2. 98	4.9	-800	-800	1200	244	1195.6	4.4	
3. 102	5.1	976	176	2176	426	2172.6	3.4	
4. 99	4.95	-1278	-1102	898	181	895.95	2.05	
5. 95	4.75	-724	-1826	174	36	171	3	
6. 94.5	4.725	-18	-1844	156	33	155.925	0.075	
7. 95	4.75	16.5	-1827.5	172.5	36	171	1.5	
8. 95.2	4.76	7.2	-1820.3	179.7	37	176.12	3.58	
9. 95.3	4.765	3.7	-1816.6	183.4	38	181.07	2.33	
10. 95.6	4.78	11.4	-1805.2	194.8	40	191.2	3.6	
11. 93.3	4.665	-92	-1897.2	102.8	22	102.63	0.17	
12. 97.972	4.8986	102.784	-1794.416	205.584	0	0	0	
13. 98	4.9	0	-1794.416	205.584	41	200.9	4.684	
14. 99	4.95	41	-1753.416	246.584	49	242.55	4.034	
15. 100	5	49	-1704.416	295.584	59	295	0.584	
16. 105	5.25	295	-1409.416	590.584	112	588	2.584	

12. Exempt Closing Crossing on the investor's 22 contracts due to the exercise of the clearing house "progress call option arising from the exercise of the counter party "protection" put option. The investor reinvests at the first market opportunity at 98.

Example 13Advantages of contracts as a Hedging Tool

(All prices in US dollars.)

5 An existing holder of \$400,000 of physical gold wishes to continue to
hold gold but would like to reduce his risk very substantially. Assume the
gold price is \$400 per ounce and the gold contract price is \$400 (the
termination date is near) and the gearing ratio in the gold contract is 40:1.
The gold holder sells \$400,000 of gold contracts (say 1000 contracts with
minimum assigned funds of \$10 per contract) by outlaying \$10,000 and
10 choosing the trading method that accumulates any surplus assigned funds.
Assume the gold price and contract price track each other.

Case 1

15 The contract price falls to \$300 by the termination date of the
contract. The investor has made a profit of \$100,000 on contracts and a loss
of \$100,000 on physical gold.

Case 2

20 The contract price rises to \$500 at the termination date of the
contract. The clearing house as agent would have progressively closed out
the investor's contract position in the market so that his \$10,000 in contracts
would be lost excluding fractions and \$100,000 could be made on the
physical gold held. The investor's total position therefore has improved
\$90,000.

Case 3

25 The contract price gaps down 4% to \$384 as soon as the contracts are
sold. The contracts are closed out by the clearing house as agent at \$390 in
an Exempt Closing Crossing giving the investor a profit of 100% on assigned
funds, ie. \$10,000. A loss of \$16,000 has been made on physical gold at the
same time. The investor's total loss therefore has been restricted to \$6,000.

Case 4

30 The contract price gaps up 4% to \$416 as soon as the contracts are
sold. The contracts are closed out by the clearing house as agent at \$410 in
an Exempt Closing Crossing for a loss to the investor of \$10,000. A gain of
\$16,000 has been made on physical gold. The investor's total gain therefore
is \$6,000.

Example 14

(All prices in Australian dollars.)

An investor sells his \$1.8m. Australian indexed share portfolio with the Australian All Ordinaries Index at 1800 as he believes the Australian share market may fall and he invests most of his money in other areas. However, he requires some protection in the short term so he buys Index contracts (gearing at 30:1) at an equivalent price level to the Australian All Ordinaries Index with the termination date near, using the trading method that accumulates any surplus assigned funds. The investor outlays \$70,000 covering the size of his original portfolio (say 1,000 contracts with minimum assigned funds of \$60 per contract plus \$10,000 of surplus assigned funds). Assume the Australian All Ordinaries Index and the Index contract price track each other.

Case 1

The contract price rises to 2000. The investor sells his contracts for a profit of \$200,000. The investor's total position is equivalent to as if he still held his share portfolio.

Case 2

The contract price falls rapidly to 1460 and the clearing house as agent progressively sells out the investor's position in the market until he has lost his original assigned funds (excluding fractions). The sale of the investor's portfolio has therefore more than compensated for his loss of \$70,000 in contracts and has justified his decision to sell the physical portfolio.

Case 3

The contract price gaps upwards more than 3 1/3% (say 1890) as soon as the contracts are bought. The investor's contracts are closed out by the clearing house as agent at 1860 in an Exempt Closing Crossing. The investor has made a profit of \$60,000 from his investment in contracts.

Case 4

The contract price gaps downwards 4% (say 1728) as soon as the contracts are bought. The contracts are closed out by the clearing house as agent at 1730 in an Exempt Closing Crossing. The investor has lost \$70,000 on his contracts but his decision to sell the physical portfolio has been justified.

Contracts with an Option as an Underlying Product

A contract with an underlying product of an option would trade in the same way as any other contract although even with a low gearing ratio the clearing house may be more likely to be performing Exempt Closing Crossings because of the nature of options. If the underlying product (option) is traded in a market, the termination dates of the contract would be the same as the expiry dates of the option in the main market that the option is traded. Contract holders with an underlying product of an equity option (or an equity) would receive an adjusted contract number if bonus, reconstruction or rights issues occur. The minimum bid (tick) for contracts trading at very low prices would be reduced on a set scale.

Communications with the Clearing House Head Computer

Although anyone from any country can theoretically deal using the system, it is important to keep down the smaller investor's international telephone costs and partly provide him with high speed dedicated lines. Each investor may have a separate dedicated line (perhaps of diverse speeds) with most major corporations or institutions probably having high speed dedicated lines, to a central spot (concentrator computer) in the closest major city. Each major city in the economically developed countries (say 1,000,000 people) could have a concentrator computer that provides the market and transaction information and receives dealing instructions from the local investors. Dealing instructions from each major capital city would be automatically directed via high speed dedicated lines to a lead computer in each country that would automatically forward the dealing instructions via high speed dedicated lines to the clearing house head computer for execution in the country of its domicile. A number of cities in some countries may be directly linked to the clearing house head computer.

It could be considered but not be necessary if trading orders sent at the same Universal time from London, Tokyo, New York, Hong Kong, Sydney, Paris and Frankfurt to the clearing house head computer arrived on market at precisely the same time. This would provide a level playing field and may encourage more world wide participants in arbitrage.

Investor's Computer Equipment and Software

Although existing computer equipment could be used by investors many investors will prefer to be offered a complete package or part package of equipment ie. computer, printer, modem, screen, a specifically designed

keyboard, compulsory software, complementing software and perhaps even specifically designed forms (such as contract notes) to be used by the printer.

Security of the System

5 Each investor will use Identification and Passwords to log on and use identifiable software. Some investors will also be "hard-wired" through a dedicated line. Data may be encrypted during transit. For specified accounts an investor's positions can only be opened and closed on one line using identifiable software.

10 Funds can only be transferred from a cash management trust account to an outside account in the same name and address as the account at the cash management trust.

15 It will be appreciated by persons skilled in the art that numerous variations and/or modifications may be made to the invention as shown in the specific embodiments without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention as broadly described. The present embodiments are, therefore, to be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive.

0630501 643760

CLAIMS:

1. A contract exchange comprising:
 - a central clearing house computer;
 - a cash depositing facility, such as computer based cash management
- 5 fund, electronically linked to the central clearing house computer; and
 - an automated real time screen trading system operated by investors using personal computers linked by telephone lines to the central clearing house computer; wherein
 - 10 the contract exchange creates, trades and closes indivisible financial package contracts each of which have two parties, a buyer and a seller, who are the beneficial owners of the proceeds of a binding obligation requiring a cash settlement based on a settlement price of a specific quantity of a specified type of product at an agreed price, place and time;
 - the price of the contracts is determined by a market;
 - 15 the contracts are geared and investors must make sufficient funds available to a trading account from a depositing facility account to cover the proportion of the value of a contract, as determined by the gearing ratio, being permitted to buy or sell;
 - as the price moves in the market, the parties to contracts gain or lose
 - 20 the entire changed value of the contracts they hold;
 - either the buyer or the seller makes an incremental profit after each price movement and the counter party makes an incremental loss;
 - the credit is immediately transferred from the trading account of the party making the loss to the party making the profit;
 - 25 the clearing house holds options on all the contracts and is able to exercise its option rights to dispose of some or all of a party's contracts in the market if that party's trading, or assigned funds became insufficient to cover the proportion of the value of the contracts held, as determined by the gearing ratio;
 - 30 should the clearing house be unable to dispose of the contracts required in the market then when the contract price moves such that the party's funds fall to zero, it is able to close all that party's contracts at that price, simultaneously closing all the contracts held by the counter parties;
 - closing takes place without delay and without the involvement of any
 - 35 other parties.

2. A contract exchange according to claim 1, wherein when the clearing house is exercising its option rights and attempting to dispose of a party's contracts in the market and a counter party enters the opposite parameter of the market, then the clearing house may close all the party and counter party contracts that are in the market at the same time.

3. A contract exchange according to claim 1 or 2, wherein if a party has sufficient funds to cover the proportion of the value of the contracts held, as determined by the gearing ratio, at the last sale price but not at the price of one of the market parameters, and a counter party enters the market at that parameter to close a position, the clearing house may close sufficient of the party's contracts with the counter party's contracts so that the party no longer has insufficient funds to cover the proportion of the value of the contracts held at the price of that market parameter.

4. A contract exchange according to any preceding claims, wherein to create a new indivisible financial package contract the clearing house enters into a purchase contract with the buyer of the contract, and enters into a sale contract with the seller of that contract at the same price.

5. A contract exchange according to any preceding claims, wherein the clearing house will automatically reinvest unrealised surplus assigned funds from an investor's trading account into further contracts.

6. A protocol for trading on a contract exchange, comprising the steps of:

- providing a central clearing house computer;
- providing a cash depositing facility such as computer based cash management fund electronically linked to the central clearing house computer;
- providing an automated real time screen trading system operated by investors using personal computers linked by telephone lines to the central clearing house computer;
- creating, trading and closing indivisible financial package contracts each of which have two parties, a buyer and a seller, who are the beneficial owners of the proceeds of a binding obligation requiring a cash settlement based on a settlement price of a specific quantity of a specified type of product at an agreed price, place and time;
- determining the price of the contracts by operation of a market;

gearing the contracts and monitoring the funds each investor has available to ensure each investor has sufficient funds available in a trading account to cover the proportion of the value of a contract, as determined by the gearing ratio, before an investor is permitted to open contracts to buy or sell;

exercising option rights to dispose of some or all of a party's contracts in the market if that party's funds become insufficient to cover the proportion of the value of the contracts held, as determined by the gearing ratio;

if unable to dispose of the contracts required in the market then, when the contract price moves such that the party's funds fall to zero, closing all that party's contracts at that price, and simultaneously closing all the contracts held by the counter parties;

closing takes place without delay and without the involvement of any other parties.

7. A protocol for trading on a contract exchange according to claim 6, comprising the further step of:

when exercising option rights and attempting to dispose of a party's contracts in the market and a counter party enters the opposite parameter of the market, closing all the party and counter party contracts that are in the market at the same time.

8. A protocol for trading on a contract exchange according to claim 6 or 7, comprising the further step of:

if a party has sufficient funds to cover the proportion of the value of the contracts held, as determined by the gearing ratio, at the last sale price but not at the price of one of the market parameters, and a counter party enters the market at that parameter to close a position, exercising option rights to close sufficient of the party's contracts with the counter party's contracts so that the party no longer has insufficient funds to cover the proportion of the value of the contracts held at the price of that market parameter.

9. A protocol for trading on a contract exchange according to claim 6, 7 or 8, comprising the further step of:

as the price moves in the market, requiring the parties to contracts to gain or lose the entire change in value of the contracts they hold so that either the buyer or the seller makes an incremental profit after each price movement and the counter party makes an incremental loss, and

immediately transferring the credit from the trading account of the counter party making the loss to the party making the profit.

10. A unique indivisible financial package contract which is a binding obligation requiring a mandatory cash settlement based on a settlement price of a specific quantity of a specified type of product at an agreed price, place and time;

each contract has two parties, a buyer and a seller, who are the beneficial owners of the proceeds of the binding obligation;

when holding contracts, the price moves as determined by market forces;

the contracts are geared and investors must make sufficient funds available to a trading account from the depositing facility account to cover the proportion of the value of a contract, as determined by the gearing ratio, before an investor is permitted to open contracts to buy or sell;

as the price moves in the market, the parties to contracts gain or lose the entire change of value of the contracts they hold;

either the buyer or the seller makes an incremental profit after each price movement and the counter party makes an incremental loss;

the credit is immediately transferred to the trading account of the party making the profit from the trading account if the counter party is making the loss;

the clearing house holds options on all the contracts and is able to exercise its option rights to dispose of some or all of a party's contracts in the market if that party's funds became insufficient to cover the proportion of the value of the contracts held, as determined by the gearing ratio;

should the clearing house be unable to dispose of the contracts required in the market then when the contract price moves such that the party's funds fall to zero, it is able to close all that party's contracts at that price, simultaneously closing all the contracts held by the counter parties;

closing takes place without delay and without the involvement of any other parties.

11. A unique indivisible financial package contract according to claim 10, wherein when the clearing house is exercising its option rights and attempting to dispose of a party's contracts in the market and a counter party enters the opposite parameter of the market, then the clearing house may

close all the party and counter party contracts that are in the market at that time.

12. A unique indivisible financial package contract according to claim 10 or 11, wherein if a party has sufficient funds to cover the proportion of the value of the contracts held, as determined by the gearing ratio, at the last sale price but not at the price of one of the market parameters, and a counter party enters the market at that parameter to close a position, the clearing house may close sufficient of the party's contracts with the counter party's contracts so that the party no longer has insufficient funds to cover the proportion of the value of the contracts held at the price of that market parameter.

13. A unique indivisible financial package contract according to claim 10, 11 or 12, wherein in order to create a new indivisible financial package contract the clearing house must enter into a purchase contract with the buyer of the contract, and enter into a sale contract with the seller of that contract at the same price.



DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name, that I believe I am an original and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention, design or discovery entitled:

UNIVERSAL CONTRACT EXCHANGE

the specification of which is attached hereto, and that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above; that I do not know and do not believe that said invention, design or discovery was ever known or used in the United States of America before my invention or discovery thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention or discovery thereof, or more than one year prior to this application, or in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application; that said invention, design or discovery has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued prior to the date of this Application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns; and that I acknowledge my duty to disclose information of which I am aware which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 (a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Australian Patent Application No. PN8157, filed February 19, 1996; International Application No. PCT/AU97/00087, filed February 18, 1997.

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined 37 C.F.R. § 156 (a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Express Mail No.

NONE

I hereby appoint:

3

Gregory M. Howison, Reg. No. 30,646Daniel V. Thompson, Reg. No. 29,706Mark W. Handley, Reg. No. 36,821

of the firm THOMPSON & HOWISON, L.L.P., my attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and to file and prosecute any international patent applications based thereon in any foreign country or before any international authorities under the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

Send Correspondence To:

THOMPSON & HOWISON, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 741715
Dallas, Texas 75374-1715

Direct Telephone Calls To:

Gregory M. Howison
at (972) 479-0462
Atty. Docket No. LAUS-24,408

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of the Sole Inventor: Roger LancasterInventor's Signature: X R. LancasterDate: 28th August 1998Residence (City, State): Paddington, New South Wales, 2000, Australia

Aux

Citizenship: AustraliaPost Office Address: 356 Moore Park Road, Paddington, New South Wales, 2000, Australia

Express Mail No.